GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2251
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2006
LAND FERTILITY
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study on the impact of continuous cultivation of wheat and paddy crops only on land fertility has been conducted;

(b) if so, the findings thereof, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government proposes to promote crop diversification to prevent soil infertility; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. There are instances of micro and secondary nutrient deficiencies, falling soil organic carbon contents impairing soil health in the major rice-wheat regions of the country especially Punjab and Haryana due to continuous imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers without organic manures.

(c) The Government is encouraging soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management envisaging conjunctive use of both inorganic fertilizers and organic manures including green manures, biofertilizers etc.

(d) & (e): Yes, Sir. The Government is also promoting crop diversification from cereal based cropping to high value and low water requiring crops like oilseeds, pulses, fruits, biofuels, medicinal and aromatic plants etc. under macro management scheme keeping in view the national food security.